

Great Places Demand Great Science

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Environmental science does not occur in the abstract, but rather involves real human and ecological communities in real biogeographical settings. Place-based assessments and management strategies bring together competing regulations, stakeholder interests, governmental and nongovernmental entities in a dynamic, collaborative process. This session will look at the lessons learned by some of the earliest and most ambitious place-based integrated assessments—Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico and the Everglades—with a focus on the role of science in clarifying stakeholder values, identifying critical uncertainties, projecting alternative futures, formulating management strategies, and evaluating trade-offs for regional sustainability.

Each speaker will address one of the Great Places programs, and discussion will extract lessons that may be applied in other integrated assessments, including those at differing spatial scales. The discussion will be lead by Dr. Rochelle Araujo; proposed panel members include: Dr. Stephen Brandt, Director of NOAA Great Lakes Laboratory and US Co-Chair of the Council of Research Managers, International Joint Commission for the Great Lakes; Dr. Quenton Dokken, Executive Director of Gulf of Mexico Foundation and Former Director of NOAA Gulf of Mexico Marine Research Program; Dr. Rich Batiuk, Associate Director for Science, Chesapeake Bay Program; Dr. Ernie Barrett, Director of Ecosystem Planning and Coordination, Florida Department of Environmental Protection.